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OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Summary of decisions adopted by the executive boards of the United Nations funds and programmes and of actions taken by the organizations of the United Nations system

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

1. The present addendum contains a summary of selected decisions adopted by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) annual Executive Board session, and the second and annual sessions of the World Food Programme (WFP) Executive Board. The results of these sessions were not included in document E/1996/64/Add.1 due to the late timing of these meetings.

I. ANNUAL SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND

2. At its annual session, the UNICEF Executive Board (17-21 June 1996) adopted eight decisions, a number of which may be of special interest to the Economic and Social Council, as described below.

A. Follow-up to the World Summit for Children

3. In its decision 1996/21, "Follow-up to the World Summit for Children", the Executive Board urged all Governments that have not yet completed the national process of review of progress towards implementation of the Declaration and Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit for Children to do so as well as all countries to develop feasible and sustainable strategies and programmes to

achieve the nationally adapted goals for children for the year 2000, and requested the Executive Director to extend full support to the Secretary-General in his reporting of progress made on the Declaration and Plan of Action to the General Assembly on 30 September 1996.

B. Joint Committee on Education of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund

4. The Board, in its decision 1996/23, took note of the report of the fifth meeting of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)/UNICEF Committee on Education and the recommendations contained therein, inter alia, the recommendations to continue collaboration in the area of capacity-building for planning and management of basic education as well as education information and statistics, capitalizing on the work done so far and giving greater attention to support the process at the country level in the context of national plans and programmes, and to promote the decentralization of planning and management to local institution levels. The two organizations should collaborate to support collecting, analysing and disseminating educational statistics and monitoring learning achievement, with particular emphasis on developing countries' capacity in that area; building regional capacity in selected institutions; adopting and applying methodologies; and drawing lessons from within and outside the project to promote wider applications as a part of country programmes of both organizations.

C. United Nations Children's Fund/World Health Organization Joint Committee on Health Policy

5. The Board, in its decision 1996/24, took note of the report of the UNICEF/World Health Organization (WHO) Joint Committee on Health Policy and the recommendations contained therein.

D. Medium-term plan 1996-1999

6. In its decision 1996/26, the Board took note of the medium-term plan as a flexible framework for supporting UNICEF programmes, and emphasized the importance of the link between the implementation of the medium-term plan and the ongoing process and expected outcomes of the Management Excellence Programme.

7. The Board also encouraged the Executive Director to ensure that, during the financial medium-term plan, the level of management and administrative costs did not exceed the current level in nominal terms.

E. Children in need

8. The Board, in its decision 1996/27, "Children in need of special protection measures", endorsed the perspective, policies and strategies presented in the document prepared by the Secretariat regarding measures to protect children from the risk of exploitation, violence, abuse, abandonment and other forms of special disadvantage, emphasizing that the special protection measures should be implemented within the framework of the rights of children.

9. The Board requested the Executive Director to take necessary steps to (a) incorporate the policies and strategies endorsed above in all relevant UNICEF programmes; (b) enhance UNICEF capacities to assist all member States in analysing the situation of children in need of a special protection measure; (c) monitor UNICEF activities in the implementation of those policies and strategies at the country level; and (d) strengthen UNICEF partnership with agencies of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations, all sectors of civil society and others who are working on issues of children in need of special protection measures.

II. WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME EXECUTIVE BOARD

10. In addition to its first regular session in January 1996 (see E/1996/64/Add.1 for the summary of decisions), the WFP Executive Board held a second regular session (22-24 and 29 May 1996) and an annual session (27-30 May 1996).

11. At its second regular session, the Executive Board adopted 28 decisions, mostly related to country strategy outlines for specific countries and development project proposals, as well as changes in budget appropriations for projects approved earlier. The Board also noted the approval of several protracted refugee or displaced persons projects and of additional project budgets. The decisions described below may be of interest to the Council.

A. Emergency operations

12. In its decision 1996/25, "Emergency operations", the Board encouraged its secretariat to further strengthen activities for improving emergency management, including food pipeline management and communications/transport systems. It urged the secretariat to continue its work on the memoranda of understanding at present under negotiation with various partners with a view to their early finalization.

B. World Food Summit

13. In its decision 1996/27, "World Food Summit", the Board recommended that the WFP secretariat continue its efforts in contributing to the preparation of the World Food Summit, and also recommended that WFP be active in the follow-up to the Summit.

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14. At its annual session, the Board adopted 12 decisions. The decisions described below may be of interest to the Council.

C. Annual report of the Executive Director

15. In its decision 1996/1, the Board approved the annual report of the Executive Director for 1995, and recommended that future annual reports to the Board provide a more analytical and policy-oriented view of the work of the programme, following the same style and format as the 1995 annual report.

16. The Board also recommended that WFP prepare, in its reporting in the years following the submission of the Strategic and Financial Plan, a paper reviewing the key policy, resource, operational and financial issues that WFP is likely to face.

D. Reports to the Economic and Social Council

17. In its decisions 1996/2, 1996/3 and 1996/4, the Board approved its reports to the Council on the follow-up to the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 44/211, 47/199 and 50/120 as well as to Council resolutions 1995/50 and 1995/51, and recommended their submission to the Council.

E. Follow-up to Council resolution 1995/56

18. In its decision 1996/5 on follow-up to Council resolution 1995/56, "Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations", the Board decided that WFP would respond to the request contained in paragraph 3 (c) of the resolution by submitting to the Council a report on progress achieved in the review of the issues involved, highlighting matters discussed at the Board's annual session. The Bureau of the Executive Board would clear the final text.

19. The Board also requested the WFP secretariat to pursue its dialogue with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee on specific proposals concerning the distribution of operational responsibilities among organizations/programmes/funds.

20. The Board further recommended that the Executive Director's report to the Board at its third regular session specifically respond to the issues discussed at the annual session. It also asked that the report present an analysis of th

policy, operational and financial implications of the proposed additional activities, including proposals to strengthen the capacity of WFP. Once the review of the issues was completed, the Board would request WFP to forward its response to Council resolution 1995/56.

F. Reform and revitalization measures in the World Food Programme

21. In its decision 1996/7, "Reform and revitalization measures in the World Food Programme", the Board appreciated the reform and revitalization measures undertaken in WFP over the last several years, and approved the document outlining them. It recommended that the document be transmitted to the Council and the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for information. It also requested the Executive Director to propose for future board sessions further measures designed to continue the process of reform.

G. Resource and financial matters

22. In its decision 1996/8, the Board endorsed the Executive Director's decision to use savings from the authorized programme support and administrative budget to meet recurring expenditures of 700,000 dollars for the Financial Management Improvement Programme, and to transfer 5.5 million dollars from the regular programme to a special operation in 1995 for the same purpose.